

## 2.6 Chickenpox-hospitalised cases

### Summary

Number of cases, 2012: 80  
 Number of confirmed cases, 2012: 57  
 Crude incidence rate, 2012: 1.7/100,000  
 Crude confirmed incidence rate, 2012: 1.2/100,000

### Chickenpox-hospitalised cases

The Health Act, 1947 entitles the Minister for Health and Children to specify by regulation diseases that are infectious, covered by legislation and that require notification to a medical officer of health. The infectious diseases notifiable in Ireland are regulated in the 1981 Infectious Diseases Regulations. The amendment S.I. No. 452 of 2011 to these regulations specified for the first time the disease chickenpox (hospitalised cases only) as notifiable. Chickenpox is caused by varicella-zoster virus. The case definition is available at [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie).

In 2012, 80 (1.7/100,000) hospitalised chickenpox cases were notified in Ireland. The largest number of cases and largest crude incidence rate was in the HSE-E (table 1). Of the 80 cases, 57 (71%) were classified as confirmed and 23 (29%) as possible. The largest number of cases and the highest age specific incidence rate was in the age group one to two years (figures 1 and 2). Of the 80 cases, 50 (63%) were male, 29 (36%) were female while gender was not reported for one case.

### Chickenpox/Varicella outbreaks

The amendment S.I. No. 707 of 2003 to the infectious disease regulations specified that unusual clusters or changing patterns of illness that may be of public health

Table 1. Number of notified hospitalised chickenpox cases and the crude incidence rate per 100,000 population (CIR) by HSE Area in 2012

| HSE Area     | Number    | CIR        |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| HSE-E        | 43        | 2.7        |
| HSE-M        | 2         | 0.7        |
| HSE-MW       | 4         | 1.1        |
| HSE-NE       | 7         | 1.6        |
| HSE-NW       | 1         | 0.4        |
| HSE-SE       | 11        | 0.9        |
| HSE-S        | 6         | 2.2        |
| HSE-W        | 6         | 1.3        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>1.7</b> |

concern must be reported. Therefore, outbreaks of chickenpox must be notified regardless of hospitalisation status. One outbreak of chickenpox was notified in 2012. This outbreak occurred in a crèche with 23 ill.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

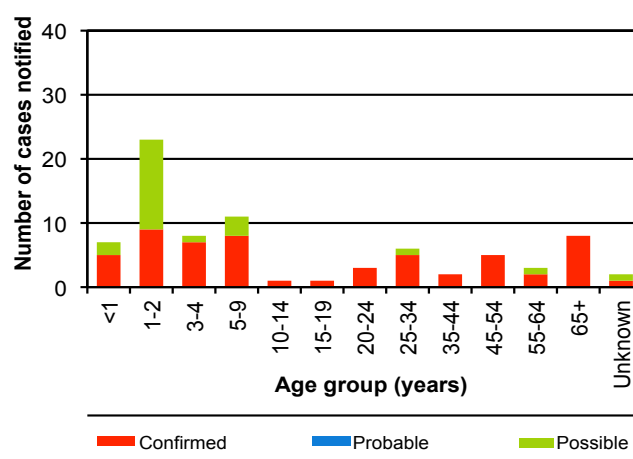


Figure 1. Number of notified hospitalised chickenpox cases in 2012 by age group and case classification

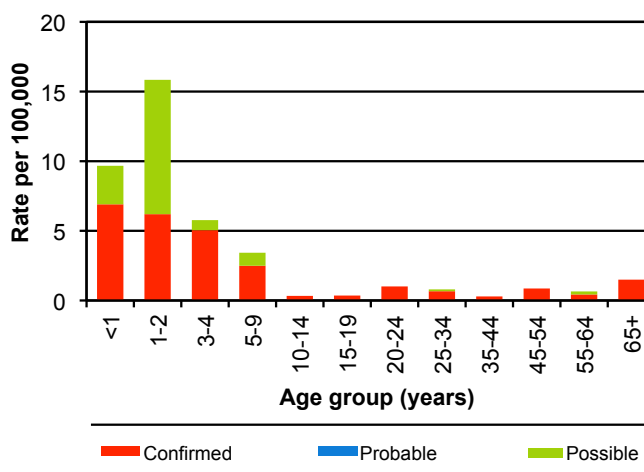


Figure 2. The age specific incidence rate (per 100,000 population) of notified hospitalised chickenpox cases in 2012 by case classification